

## Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21 with the following paragraph:

Physiological state or physiological status: According to the present invention, a physiological state refers to any normal biological state of a cell or organism. The parameters that are considered in determining physiological state include but are not limited to age, gender, ethnic origin, and reproductive state, which includes, ~~but is not limited to~~ menstrual state, menopausal state, post-partum, pregnancy, lactation, and nulliparity. Reproductive state parameters include the number of pregnancies a woman has had, the outcome of those pregnancies, (e.g. live birth, miscarriage, termination, etc.), the duration that a woman has lactated; whether a woman is pre-menopausal, peri-menopausal, menopausal or post-menopausal, and at what point a woman is in her menstrual cycle. For the purposes of this invention the physiological state may be determined by a single indicator. For example, the age of a patient may be the only indicator of physiological state used to categorize a reference sample. In another example, samples may be categorized according to those women that have been pregnant and those women that have not been pregnant, or according to menopausal state (i.e. pre-menopausal, peri-menopausal, menopausal or post-menopausal). Preferably several indicators of physiological state will be used to categorize a reference sample. For example, samples may be categorized according to whether a woman has been pregnant or not and according to menopausal state. Two samples are matched if they share at least one common parameter, for example, menopausal women who have never been pregnant may be matched. Methods to determine the physiological state of a sample include but are not limited to measuring the abundance and/or activity of cellular constituents (expression profile, genotyping), morphological phenotype, or interview of the subject.